

Recreational Trails Program Application

19. ELIGIBLE PROJECT CATEGORIES

The following is a list of the types of projects which may funded with Recreational Trails Program funds. Check all categories that apply to the application.

_____ **New trail construction** - List type(s) of trail use, width and length.

_____ **Environmental mitigation/enhancement** - measures that provide design, reconstruction, non-routine maintenance, or relocation of trails in order to mitigate and minimize impact on the natural environment.

_____ **Development of trailhead and trailside facilities -**

1. Drainage
2. Crossings
3. Stabilization
4. Parking
5. Signage
6. Shelters
7. Water and Sanitary Facilities
8. Accessibility Infrastructure

_____ **Restoration of areas damaged by usage** - (includes installation of erosion control measures, repair of damages due to over-use, and/or impacts by non-permitted trail users, etc.)

_____ **Acquisition of land** - (must be a willing seller)

1. Fee Simple (preferred)
2. Permanent public use easement purchased by (donated to) Agency.

_____ **Trail Planning and Assessments –**

Grants up to \$20,000 may be awarded for this category giving a total project value of \$25,000 including matching funds.

Applications must be for a Comprehensive Trail System Master Plan for an entire county (including all municipalities), state owned lands or federal agency's trail system.

Grant applications must show how the proposed plan will assess the agency's trails and documents how the agency will use this information. Items to be assessed and inventoried for each trail include trail head access points and facilities, type of tread surface, width, cross slope, grade, obstructions, length, etc. New trails proposed must be adequately described and tentative trail route shown on a topo map. Plan must include estimated costs for any trail project mentioned.

RTP Scoring Criteria

The following items are used to score the application. Please fill out each section completely. RTP applications are scored with a 200 point system.

- 20. PROJECT SUMMARY** - Provide a one-page summary of the proposed project. This summary should describe the scope of the project and briefly justify the need and demand for the project. Applicant should address how the proposed project meets the “intent” of the Recreational Trails Program eligibility criteria as described in the application. Any special issues or significant features of the project should be included. **Try to “sell” your project in this one-page summary.** (30 points)
- 21. PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA** - Explain how the project meets the following project selection criteria. (150 points) Application must provide information on all the items listed below in order to receive the maximum score. Use a minimum of one page for each lettered item.
- A. Planning Process** – Document the planning process (public involvement and support) for the project. Is this trail project part of a Comprehensive Trail System Master Plan? (0-50 points)
- 1. RTP pre-application was complete (attach RES letter)** (20 points)
 - 2.** Identified as having the highest demand (through local public input). Applicant can use the Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities, Threats, (SWOT) assessment process to identify the need for the trail project or the project can be identified in a comprehensive local Park and Recreation Master Plan or a comprehensive local Greenways and Trails Plan. Plan should be no more than 5 years old.
 - 3.** Identified in the 2003-08 Tennessee State Recreation Plan. See Proposal 9, pages 47-51 of the TSRP.
Go to: <http://state.tn.us/environment/recreation/plan/> .
 - 4.** Identified as a priority in the 2001 Tennessee Greenways and Trails Plan (TGTP). See Chapter 4, pages 48-66 of the TGTP. See the website listed above to view a copy of the TGTP.

- B. Management Systems** - Provide a detailed management overview illustrating who will manage the project during construction and who will provide operations and maintenance after completion. *(0-30 points)*

Include information on operations and maintenance staff, budget, safety and security (rules of operation) and programming.

- C. Connections** – Describe the degree to which the trail project provides links to other trails, greenways, scenic corridors, schools, neighborhoods, commercial areas and parks. *(0-25 points)*

Is the trail project part of a phased trail system?

Does the trail project link two existing sections of trail?

Does the trail project connect a school with a park or to a neighborhood?

- D. Partnerships** – Document support for the trail project and public/private partnerships between public agencies and trail user groups. *(0-25 points)*

Include letters of intent from volunteer groups committing donations of labor, materials, or equipment for the trail project.

Is there a written Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in place and is it working?

- E. Environmental Protection** – Describe how the project provides for the design, construction, location or redesign, reconstruction, or relocation of the trail or trailhead in order to minimize the impact of the trail project on the natural environment resulting in a sustainable project. This includes a completed CE request packet. *(0-20 points)*

Example is building a boardwalk over a wetland area, constructing grade reversal dips into an existing trail to stop erosion, filling low places with gravel to harden the surface, armoring the trail surface with rocks, etc.

- F. Volunteerism** – Provide written details (letters about donated materials and services) from volunteer organizations that will be used to construct or maintain this project. Include information on Youth Conservation Corps (YCC), AmeriCorps or other volunteer organizations. *(0-10 points)*

- G. Trail Sharing** – List the uses of the trail project showing it can accommodate a variety of motorized and/or non-motorized recreation activities (hiking, equestrian, fitness, interpretive, paddle sport, multi-use, motorcycle, ATV, 4-wheel drive, mountain bicycling, accessible trails). *(0-10 points)*